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Dysart parking meters' time has expired

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The choice is simple when it comes to Dysart's parking meters.

Issues with parking meters on Maple and Highland Streets in the downtown core come up every month or so, Mayor Murray Fearrey said. And it was on the agenda of the township council's Oct. 24 regular public meeting.

"I think we need to either put it to bed or take them out," he said. "That's the

Council decided to cover as many as about 35 of the parking meters before their removal. Staff has also been asked to examine ways to enforce a two-hour parking time limit.

He said he's aware the local BIA would like to have the parking meters remain.

"On the other hand, it's \$400,000 to replace those sidewalks down there," Fearrey said. "We're doing that damage

see PARKING page 2



Strike!

Red Wolves athlete Tori Deubel celebrates after getting a strike during the local special olympics team's annual Bowl-a-Thon on Saturday, Oct. 28 at Fast Lane Bowling in Minden. The fundraiser brought in over \$7,000 to support the Haliburton County Red Wolves athletes be able to attend and participate in their sports. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

Petition shows residents are fed up with town deer

JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

You only have to look around many areas of Haliburton County to see why people shouldn't feed deer at any time during the year.

Chris Bishop told Dysart township council during its Oct. 24 regular meeting that he sees as many as 24 deer on his property.

Daily.

Twenty-five years ago, he said, he might have spied that many deer in a whole year.

As bad as that is for his property, the proximity is worse for the wild animals. And he outlined to council some of the ways that's the case,

Bishop and Greg Gillespie represent a group of property owners who have formed a coalition against feeding deer

see FEEDING page 2



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Parking meters soon need to be replaced

from page 1

trying to pick the snow up around the meters."

A councillor asked about the revenue generated for municipal coffers through the meters

The mayor said it's about \$30,000, but he wasn't certain if that figure included the parking fares that had been generated by the medical centre.

Council decided April 11 to remove the medical centre parking lot pay station after a debate about how to best maintain the payment system. The equipment had started to become problematic and it was decided the pay system was too costly to maintain over the long haul.

The pay machines are getting to be upwards of 20 years old, and the guts of them have already been replaced. There was concern that the gate arms would eventually break down and need to be replaced as well.

The sidewalk meters are basically facing the same fate. These pay and display meters are nearing the end of their life and would need to be replaced," said Karl Korpela, the municipality's chief building official. "Those are things to consider as well when we're talking about do we keep the meters or remove them."

Korpela said the BIA favours the meters as a means to control the amount of time motorists spend on the street.

'So people don't park there all day," he said. "Allow (customer) turnover so people can shop at the stores."

"I think the biggest problem they got is with their staff," Fearrey said. "I don't think it's the visitors. They come, they shop, and they leave."

Barbara Swannell, the treasurer, said the meters bring in about \$22,000 a year, a portion of which offsets costs incurred by the Bylaw and Parking Enforcement staff.

'Typically, we've been drawing \$20,000 a year to put into the municipal operating budget," she said. "At the end of 2022, the (parking) reserve had a balance of just over \$100,000."

"But didn't you just say the main street?" Fearrey said. "I didn't think you included all the meters."

"Yes, that's just for the main street," Swannell said.

"That's over 30 years," said Fearrey.

"We've been drawing on that (reserve fund) consistently each year as well," she said.

"If you compare that to replacing the sidewalks every four or five years, it's not a very good business deal,"

Korpela said the municipality can investigate the use of an internet hotspot app for parking payment. Or simply impose a two-hour time limit for parking along the business thoroughfare.

'And we chock the tires," he said. "That's the oldschool way of doing it. I'm not sure what the new school

Time limits aren't very effective, he said.

"Parking meters are the most effective means of controlling parking," Korpela said. "But there are other

"Parking meters are a great tool if you've got some-body on the street all day," Fearrey said. "Because I see violation after violation."

Feeding deer robs them of wildness: resident

from page 1

in town and surrounding areas. They presented council with a petition of 720 names.

Those who signed the petition are asking that a bylaw against feeding deer in town be expanded to a year-round ban and that its coverage area be enlarged to allow additional coverage.

Bishop said they want deer feed vendors to have to display the map of the enlarged coverage area and to include information such as the consequences of bylaw

infractions by feeding deer.

The coalition would also like the municipality to make residents aware of the amendments by way of a notice with mailed tax bills and a page on the township's web-

"Public awareness to this bylaw is critical," Bishop said.

And that importance of public awareness is something with which Lori King agrees. She voiced her opposition to a deer feeding ban.

But first, Bishop said there is much literature prepared by wildlife biologists across North America that strongly

discourage the feeding of deer in urban settings.
"Commercial deer food is nutritionally inferior to natural food and can cause gastrointestinal problem when the gut bacteria of deer can't adapt quickly enough to a change in diet," Bishop said.

Deer instinctively eat less in winter. Their metabolism slows and they can lose as much as 20 per cent of their body weight during those months, he said. They remain healthy throughout all that.

But artificial feeding disrupts that natural cycle, Bishop said, by quickening the metabolism and causing deer to burn through their fat stores faster.

"Deer do starve in the winter," he said. "This is a natural process that helps keep deer populations at long-term sustainable levels.

"Deer are beautiful wild animals, but we rob them of their wildness when we feed them. They become dependent on easy food sources."

Younger deer could lose their ability to forage, and they become accustomed to human contact.

Feeding sites are the primary routes for transmission of potentially serious diseases and parasites between

Saliva and manure can also transmit giardia, commonly called beaver fever, and E. coli to people and pets, not to mention drawing deer ticks that may spread Lyme

"Higher deer density in the village have resulted in an alarming increase in deer-vehicle collisions, causing more deer to suffer injury and death and risking the safety and expense to drivers," Bishop said.

And then there's the damage deer wreak on planted and natural vegetation on private and public property.

'Many properties and public spaces are almost unusable because of excessive deer droppings," he said.

More deer in town draws hunting wolves and coyotes, he said. And they pose safety risks to people and pets.

Gillespie retired after a 30-year career at the Ministry of Natural Resources. For 20 of those years, he worked as a wildlife manager, he said. And in the early 1990s, he was the operations manager of the Loring Deer Yard in northern Ontario.

It's the largest deer wintering tract in the province. So he knows a thing or two about deer.

"I have first-hand knowledge and experience with emergency deer feeding," Gillespie said.

Deer feeding was meant to only be used in areas far afield of civilization and away from roads and highways. And only during severe winter weather conditions. You know: as a means to give the animal a cloven hoof up against tough times.

Gillespie said, currently, the ministry doesn't feed the animals and "strongly discourages" recreational feeding of deer by the public.

King, who spoke to council following Bishop and Gillespie, said irresponsible deer feeders have created the current problem.

"And will continue to because I've already heard of people who have private backyards who have no inten-



It's very possible that there will be a lot of deer that fall asleep in your backyard and just don't wake up in the morning because they haven't had enough food to feed them.

— Lori King

tion to stop feeding," King said. "Right now I see the unethical hunters loading up their trucks with carrots

She asked council to allow six more months to try to convince people to stop feeding deer.

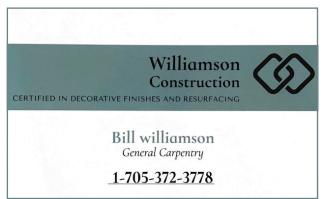
"It's not our fault that they (the public) are not involved," Mayor Murray Fearrey said. "We've been dealing with this for six months in a row.'

King said she believes she can convince people who want what's best for deer to refrain from feeding the ani-

"Rather than this abrupt ban that is going to be really hard to watch," she said. "None of us know how that's going to play out. It's very possible that there will be a lot of deer that fall asleep in your backyard and just don't wake up in the morning because they haven't had enough food to feed them."









You better watch out...

Santa Claus is coming to town! Members of the Haliburton & District Lions Club were busy putting up the banner for this year's Santa Claus Parade at the Écho office on Oct. 24, one month before the festivities will commence on Highland Street in Haliburton. Float entries will be accepted up until the day of the parade. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

A ceremony to commemorate Grace

BRITNEY PAGLIUCA

Staff Reporter

Haliburton County's Turtle Guardians, students from J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School and other members of the community gathered at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School for a ceremony to commemorate the life of Grace, the oldest known snapping turtle in the area, who passed away this past year, on Friday, Oct. 27.

Leora Berman, Turtle Guardians' founder and CEO, said, "Grace, like all snapping turtles, are called keystone species. Effectively, the roles they play in the environment hold up the entire ecosys-

Her death has a huge impact on our environment, as snapping turtles are essential to the dissemination of aquatic plant seeds and for keeping wetlands clean and healthy.

Moreover, "Grace was well known to this community," Berman said, "she was part of our identity."

Community members and students were joined by indigenous knowledge holders, TomTom Sinclair of the Turtle Clan from Couchiching First Nation and Mishiikenh Kwe, an artist from Magnetawan First Nation, whose name means Turtle Woman. The two spoke on indigenous history and the significance of turtles within both indigenous culture and our ecosystems.

Students from J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School listened attentively and eagerly asked questions. Some even got see and gently touch Grace's remains, to thank her for all that she did for Haliburton's wetlands.

Berman spoke about the importance of youth engagement in eco-protection. She said, "youth are our future. This generation of youth values experience over material gain and they don't want to see the degradation of lakes and wetlands," Educating young people about the importance of turtles, ecosystems and climate change can help bring about the change we so desperately need.

For those looking for more resources to educate youth about the environmental importance and protection you can find a full curriculum and other materials at www.turtleguardians.com.



Students from J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School touch the remains of Grace, the 125-yearold snapping turtle, and say thank you for all she has done for Haliburton's wetlands





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Mishiikenh Kwe, an artist from Magnetawan First Nation, speaks to students about the significance of turtles in indigenous culture and Haliburton's wetlands.



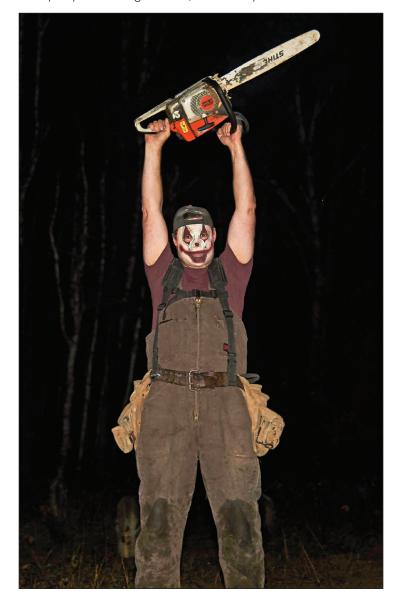
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Thriller nightAbbey Gardens brought the scarier side of Halloween to the Highlands during their annual Haunted Trail walk on Friday and Saturday evening. Visitors walked the trail, if they dared, to see scenes usually only found in nightmares. /TIM YANO Special to the *Echo*













Haliburton County Red Wolves Bowl-a-thon organizers share a laugh during the event on Saturday, Oct. 28 at Fast Lane Bowling in Minden. The fundraiser collected \$7,000 in pledges and donations to go towards the Red Wolves special olympics team sports. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff



Skylar Pratt smiles after getting a spare in her lane.



Dysart council hears latest tweaks to STR bylaw, accommodation tax

JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The rental of sleeping cabins has been a point of debate in the county-wide effort to regulate short-term property rentals.

Steve Stone, the county's planning director, told Dysart township council when it met Oct. 24 that separate sleeping cabins, or bunkies, could be available for rent only in conjunction with the primary structure on the property.

Nobody can operate a STR without a license, in a building that is not habitable, in a shed, floating accommodation, trailer, tent, vehicle, vessel or non-building code compliant dwelling unit.

A renter cannot re-rent a dwelling as a STR and cannot host other special events such as weddings while they are renting

In terms of licensing requirements, county council settled on a single class of

"That simply means that, if you operate a STR, you need a license for that," Stone said. "If you operate three STRs, you need three licenses.

And licenses are valid for a year and can be renewed.

The roles of the municipalities and county regarding bylaw enforcement are to be determined.

Every person who contravenes any provision of the STR bylaw could be fined no more than \$50,000 for a first offence and not more than \$100,000 for a second and each subsequent offences.

There are two implementation strategies being consider, Stone said. The bylaw will be administered at the lower tier municipality except any appeals, which will be heard at the county level.

The county is considering a third-party contractor to monitor STR activities. Stone said county staff are preparing to issue a request for proposals from prospective contractors.

Scott Ovell, the county's economic development and tourism director, said that, in the interest of simplicity, it's hoped to implement the STR bylaw and a new four per cent municipal accommodation tax at the same time.

"If it is implemented, it is a mandatory tax," Ovell said. "And it can only be implemented by lower tier municipalities. The County of Haliburton would have no legal authority to implement one across the county. It would have to be done in each township."

The proposed tax system does allow for exemptions for some properties or lodgings, he said.

At least 50 per cent of the revenue collected by the local municipality has to go to another designated entity," he said. "It has to be a not-for-profit."

It doesn't have to be a single entity that gets the coin, either. But the money has to be used for the development and promotion of the tourism industry

To that end, the county is in the process of establishing a municipal services cor-

Ovell said one of the key considerations in the whole setup is who would collect

"This is really, really challenging when it comes to short-term rentals," he said. "If you're just implementing it on traditional roofed accommodations, that could be fairly simple if you're only trying to chase 10 or 11 operators and get them to remit on a monthly basis."

It becomes more challenging when you

have to get as many as 2,000 operators to remit monthly, he said. And that's why utilizing a third-party contractor is being considered.

He said, based on initial estimates of occupancy rates, STRs, and daily rates, there could be the potential to generate as much as \$2.5-million annually, he said. And there's the possibility of saving \$250,000 on existing county marketing and programming.

"It is a unique program," Ovell said. "It's rare when you have the ability to make money and save money at the same

"We won't have any trouble spending the money, by the way," said Mayor Mur-ray Fearrey. "On roads alone."

New Red Pine dock proposed

JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Speedy repairs and cooperative water levels enabled the Wilkinson boat launch on Kennisis Lake to open earlier than expected.

Andrea Mueller, Dysart's manager of programs and events, told township council during its Oct. 24 meeting that staff had hoped to complete repairs on the launch much earlier in the year.

Varying degrees of repairs are required at the numerous boat launches scattered throughout the municipality every year. Mueller said there are 27 boat launches, all requiring different levels of care.

Money is budgeted each year for repairs to boat launches and, in 2023, additional funding was set aside for the Wilkinson boat launch on Kennisis Lake. Work was done the week of Sept. 25, she said.

"Staff had hoped to be able to do the repairs in the spring, but the water level never got low enough," she said.

The launch was completed and opened a day and a half earlier than expected.

Minor repairs to the two boat launches on Haliburton Lake and to one at Drag Lake were also completed.

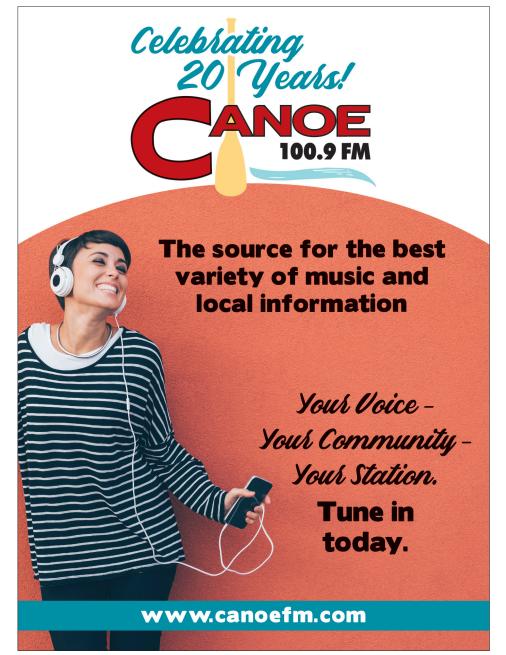
"So it's something that's ongoing," Mueller said.

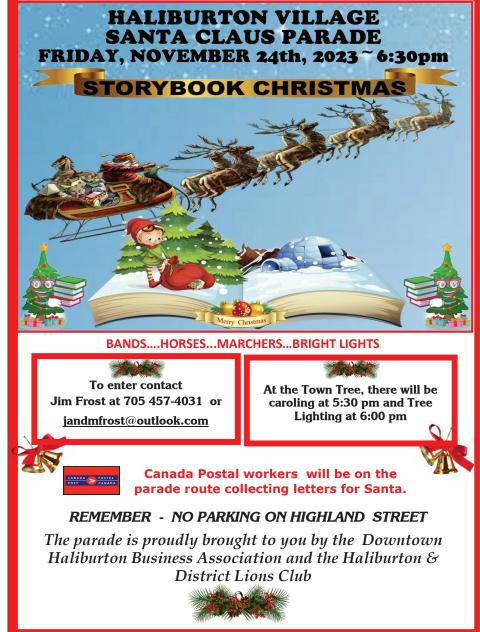
The fall proves challenging for boat launches as the water levels fluctuate drastically from one day to the next. She said anyone using a boat launch should always use caution and take a look at the launch prior to putting in or taking out their boat.

"Things change," she said. "Things shift around."

Replacement of the dock at the Red Pine boat launch will be proposed in the 2024 budget. This dock was replaced several years ago, but the current in that location adds significant wear and tear to it.

"The dock there is in rough shape," Mueller said. "It gets shifted around because of the water so there will be a request to replace that dock. That will be coming forward. Just giving you the





points of view



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Halloween-town

For monster mashers, scary spooky skeletons, and Ghostbusters, Halloween is the most wonderful time of the

Halloween, like many other holidays celebrated in our society, began as a religious celebration.

Some historians believe we have Celtic harvest festivals that happened 2,000 years ago to thank for all of the orange and black sugar-filled aisles in stores as soon as the leaves begin to turn to brown.

It's since departed from it's original intention, to remember the dead, for most.

The Hallmark holiday, another day claimed by commercialism, is typically seen as a scary day.

Some love it, some hate it.

The ones that love it may partake in a haunted house, maze, or movie marathon. They'll dress up in a spooky costume and head out trickor-treating or to a party with *Thriller* by Michael Jackson blasting through the speakers.

Others might treat it the same as any other day, and either hand out candy or not.

Of course, all ways of spending the day are okay so long as one's actions aren't harming anyone else, but it's easy to see how it's a controversial thing to celebrate as a diverse society.

But from what I've seen in Haliburton, the community's pretty good at having something for everyone.

Moreover, the community's pretty excellent at inclusivity and using events for good.

I've spent all my October thirty-firsts in Haliburton County.

My parents and I always went trickor-treating in Minden.

We would go with a group of friends, and the adults would cup thermoses of coffee in their cold hands and hang a few steps behind us kids, with our costumes usually stuffed over thick sweaters or even winter parkas, thanks to

I can still remember the excitement I felt on Halloween night.

It wasn't just from the pillowcase-full of candy I knew I was about to acquire,

I was thrilled to dress up as someone I idolized at the time - a tiger, a princess, Kim Possible.

I was even more thrilled to get to run around with this new identity with my best friends, and show off my marshmallow-looking (remember, Ontario seasons) costume to people in the com-

And they were what really made the night. The enthusiasm from everyone in their homes passing out candy is so

hearwarming to remi-

When I got a little older, instead of handing out candy, all the same people were just as thrilled to give us canned food that we were collecting as HHSS Interact members, to then be donated to the food banks in the County.

This is a tradition Interact is carrying on this year

They'll be going door to door on the 31st and will also be at the Trunk or Treat event

at Head Lake Park, if you wish to donate non-perishable food. Another really wonderful Halloween

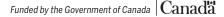
event was the Haliburton County Red Wolves Bowl-a-Thon. It was truly impossible to do any-

thing but smile and laugh while in that bowling alley on Saturday. The team was raising money to be able to continue doing all of the won-

derful sports they do. They collected \$7,000 in pledges that

That's \$7,000 to carry on the joy that comes from bringing this incredible group of humans together.

No matter how you spend the day, events in the county this time of year are yet another example of our generous, joy-filled community.



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vivian

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Letters must include name and telephone number. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.



Worms of a different kind

HE WISHED the shouting would stop. Her parents had been yelling at each other since lunchtime. Sam the dog was hiding under the kitchen table, shaking.

So Amy did what she always did; she headed for the library. As soon as she was outside she could feel herself relax a bit, though their voices were still in her head. As she walked the few blocks, every once in a while Amy looked up at the huge oaks, their spreading canopy comforting and familiar.

She knew the building well. Through the doors, past the adult section on her left and up the stairs to the children's area. Amy had read many of the books here. Over the years she had moved from books with few words and lots of pictures to more words until now there would be pages and pages before a picture appeared between the covers.

She liked to sit on the bench in a small alcove

with a big pile in front of her on the table. It was hard to decide what to bring home and then, sometimes she just liked looking at the ones with pictures of horses. She realized the words were simplified for kids but that didn't matter. It was the feel of the paper and the faintest of smells as she turned the pages, looking and reading.

When it was time to leave, Amy made sure she had her limit of five. Mrs. Cook, the librarian asked her if she liked the author she had picked out and Amy replied shyly in the affirmative. She liked Mrs. Cook. Quietly busy as she moved between the shelves and the library check-out, she always had time for a word or two with the young girl.

Today Mrs. Cook pointed to one of Amy's books and said if Amy liked that one, another by the same author had just come in. Would Amy like her to put it aside for her for next time? Amy said yes please. They both smiled.

Amy knew when she returned home the house would be quiet, at least for a while. She planned to go straight to her room and start reading. With any luck that should take her to supper time. Brenda had been looking forward to

coming here all morning. There were many things in her life she would prefer not to dwell upon and so when she came to the library she was usually able to leave them at the door. She loved the quiet, the calmness of the place. No one yelled or ran around or banged the tables.

The hardest part for Brenda was

deciding what to do first. The magazines were tempting. How she loved to sit in one of the comfortable chairs and leisurely peruse home decorating ideas or maybe an article about what was happening on the other side of the planet.

Since she didn't have a computer at home, library staff had helped her get set up with using one of theirs. Sometimes she had to wait her turn but that was alright. It

wasn't like there was nothing else to do while she waited. And it was always comfortable in the building. When she wanted to get out of the heat, the library's air conditioning revived her in no time. Winter was especially hard for Brenda so coming inside, even if only for a few hours, was a welcome change. She didn't have to worry about turning up the heat at her place when she could drop by the library for an

Although she had never done any travelling, she had learned quite a lot about other countries from her reading. Scotland was her favourite, and there was a series of mysteries set in that country that Brenda especially enjoyed. Sue, one of the library staff, had put her on to them. Brenda never felt she was interrupting or bothering Sue with her questions about books. It was such a welcoming place to spend time. Learning to read had been hard for Brenda, but once she got it, she never looked back.



lynch

Down

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points of view

War of the roses

THE OTHER day my friend and I were texting about how our hunting seasons were going when I walked away from my phone for just a second. In that short while, he texted me back. Since Jenn was closer to my phone, I asked her to hand it to me. Which she did. But not before she giggled and texted my longtime friend a rose emoji - which I immediately saw when

she handed me my phone.
So to recap, my best buddy was telling me a hunting story about a big bear he just encountered and, as far as he's concerned, I responded by sending him a rose – just

like they do on *The Bachelor*.

That was on Saturday morning, and by Sunday night, I still hadn't heard back from him. This led me to believe that he either had ran into that bear again or – perhaps more likely - he was still processing what he must have thought was my first outward display of affection in more than 25 years of friendship.

It was a lot to process too.

steve galea

You see, men of my generation grew up without emojis.

But we have adapted. In fact, we have actually gotten comfortable with one emoji– the thumbs up. This is a truly excellent and versatile emoji, which basically summarizes everything an older man needs to say in a text message. I am no expert, but as far as I can tell, it can mean one of four things: I agree. I'm only pretending to pay attention. I'm going to hitchhike. It also comes in handy when indicating that you injured your thumb with a ball peen

hammer.

That is not to say we older gents are incapable of advanced emoji use. The other day I sent a unicorn to my daughter, just to make her wonder if I am still of sound

Generally, however, these advanced skills are only reserved for our partners or on occasion to younger people we know, just to show them that we are still "with it" and, dare I say it, "cool."

No self-respecting man, however, would use anything but the thumb emoji to communicate with his best buddy, if said character is of similar age.

Unfortunately, Jenn's mischievous act had broken that cardinal rule - and I was left to pick up the pieces.

I knew that, if I didn't straighten this out with Tom, chaos would probably ensue and soon our text messages would become the Wild West of emoji use.

So, I called him.

"Hello," he said awkwardly.

"Hey," I replied.

"Let's not talk about the rose emoji, OK?" he inter-

I considered telling him that the rose was a prank pulled on us by Jenn. But that would be admitting she one-upped me, but good. Plus, it would have sown distrust in the text messaging system, which to us older folks is as close to old reliable the telegram as they come. Full stop.

"What are you talking about?" I said.

You sent me a rose emoji," he replied sheepishly.

"I did?" I said. "Oh crap! I didn't have my reading glasses on. So, if I sent you the rose emoji, that must mean Jenn got the thumbs up emoji. No wonder she begged me to sell my ball peen hammer..."

"It all makes perfect sense now," he said.

Even though we were on the phone, I gave him a thumbs up. And I'm sure he did the same.

Which just goes to show you, even the worst problems can be solved with a little bit of back-petaling.

The Principles of an Economic Charter of Rights

It's time to unshackle Canada's small businesses

frank

stronach

T'S UNDERSTANDABLE why many people often refer to small businesses as the backbone of our economy. For one, small businesses develop a majority of the new breakthrough products and innovative technologies that fuel Canada's economic growth.

But more importantly, they generate most of the new jobs in this country. According to the latest Government of Canada statistics, small businesses accounted for 98 percent of all companies that employed people. As of 2021, small businesses employed more than 8 million people in Canada, which represents close to 70 percent of the total private sector workforce.

So, if small business is so vital to our country's economic well-being, why aren't we doing more to champion their success and promote even greater growth?

World-famous entrepreneur Sir Richard Branson, the founder of global companies such as Virgin Atlantic and Virgin Mobile, once noted that all big businesses start small.

That's certainly true of my own company. When I started Magna International Inc. in the late 1950s, I opened a one-

man tool and die shop in a rented garage in downtown Toronto. I bought some used equipment and slept on a small cot inside the shop. I drummed up my first sale by knocking on the door of the American Standard factory right next to my tool shop.

I hired my first employee after one month. And by the end of my first year of operation, I had ten workers on the company payroll. My small company began to take off: we added new customers, hired more people, and made more money.

We should have thousands of new startups like the company I founded all over Canada today. But unfortunately, we don't.

In fact, I've often wondered: if I were to start Magna all over again today, instead of more than 50 years ago, would I have been able to grow the company as quickly as I did with all the shackles we put on small

business nowadays? I very much doubt it.

We've placed so many obstacles in the way of small businesses and burdened them with countless regulations and rules that it's no wonder so many small business don't survive more than a few years after opening their doors

So, what's the answer? I've been arguing in this column for the creation of a new Canadian Economic Charter of Rights and Responsibilities, and one of the foremost principles in that charter is the elimination of corporate income tax for any small business with 300 employees or less.

The one condition attached to eliminating income tax is that the small business owner has to reinvest most of the profits back into growing the business and hiring more employees. The government would receive far more in personal income taxes from the new jobs that small business creates than it ever would by simply taxing those same businesses.

We've got to stop holding back our entrepreneurs by taxing them into the ground and making them jump through countless bureau-

cratic hoops. If we eliminated all income tax for small business, everyone would win: government would rake in more taxes on business sales, Canadians would have more job opportunities, and entrepreneurs would finally get a fair reward for bearing all of the risks associated with running a busi-

By implementing this one single economic action and unshackling small business, we would ignite the Canadian economy and set our country on a path of phenomenal growth.

Author Bio

Frank Stronach is the founder of Magna International Inc., one of Canada's largest global companies, and was inducted into the Automotive Hall of Fame. fstronachlpc@gmail.com



Have a thought, comment or opinion you'd like to share?

Send a letter to the editor to vivian@haliburtonpress.com



pic of the past

rian Hunter of Haliburton will be turning 80 on Nov. 1. He was born in 1943. Brian was a mechanic who worked at Lakeshore Marine in Haliburton from 1961 to 1984. The business was owned by his father the late Jack Hunter. It was located at 104 and 106 Highland St., which are now apartment units. Brian serviced outboard motors, snowmobiles, and other small engines. He was always tinkering with mechanical items and was inventive; at one time he made his own diving apparatus. He was one of the earliest snowmobilers in Haliburton County, beginning in 1964 when Lakeshore Marine began selling the O.M.C. Snow Cruiser. His 1974 Snow Cruiser is presently on display at the Haliburton Highlands Museum. In later years Brian was involved with model railroading. He has many recollections of the Haliburton area and is currently a resident of Extendicare in Haliburton. This was taken on the shore of Head Lake in Haliburton around 1947. The boat house in the picture was one of several which dotted Head Lake many years ago. Drop in and wish him a happy birthday! /Submitted by Steve Hill of the Haliburton Highlands Museum

Global Day of Climate Protest

ful protest will take place in front of the locomotive across from Head Lake in the village of Haliburton. This is part of a global movement organized by 350.org. The theme of the protest is to advocate for climate solutions such as conservation of energy, renewable energy and heat pumps. Climate scientists are clear that we must end the expansion of fossil fuels immediately and wind down their use as soon as possible. And that is not happening anywhere near fast enough.

From forest fires to flash flooding, the impacts of the climate emergency are being felt more often and more severely than ever before. Fossil fuel companies are raking in billions by exploiting communities, workers, and the climate. But these corporations are enabled by governments around the world, including our federal leaders in Ottawa, who are pouring billions of our tax dollars into the industry while greenlighting new fossil fuel extraction and transportation pro-

The message of this protest is to call on our leaders to cut ties with fossil fuels, make polluters pay and invest in powering a just transition at home and abroad. Across the world, communities will be joining protests to advocate for a healthy climate. Please join us. For information, please call 705-457-9239.

Submitted

Telling our stories

On Nov. 8, the Speakers Series is pleased to be presenting "Stories from There to Here". As we all know, there are some amazing people living in the Haliburton Highlands ... people with remarkable stories. Folks you may know or have heard of but not realize the great things they have done or are doing. Wil Andrea and Fay Wilkinson are two individuals who have done so much to help people here in this community and around the world.

Fay will share her profound experiences with Expressive Arts and how she uses them in the community, including her work with the Abbey Retreat Centre and a variety of community Mental

Health Services.

Wil, meanwhile half a world away, will share her experiences working with victims of genocide and war in the Democratic Republic of Congo and other humanitarian projects in Somalia, Rwanda, Myanmar and Indonesia.

The Speakers Series happens on the second Wednesday of each month from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Haliburton Highlands Outdoor Association Fish Hatchery. Admission is \$15/person payable (cash) at the door. A portion of the ticket sales goes to a charity or local non-profit organization.

Submitted



Tori Deubel, an individual supported by Community Living, pictured with the rock she painted for "Mountaineer" the rock snake, outside Community Living on Mountain Street in Haliburton. /BRITNEY PAGLIUCA Staff

Community Living's 'Mountaineer': The Rock Snake

BRITNEY PAGLIUCA

Staff Reporter

Since the spring, you may have noticed "Mountaineer" the rock snake displayed on the walkway into Community Living on Mountain Street in Haliburton - a collection of painted rocks sitting in a row, forming a decorative snake.

Patty Acorn and Terry Lumley said that the idea arose during the COVID-19 lockdowns, when many people were feeling isolated and needed a way to feel more connected to the community. Painted rocks were not an unfamiliar sight during the uncertain times of the pandemic, but "Team Mountain is the name given to Community Living's Mountain Street location, has decided that community support is to remain a primary focus indefinitely.

The other sites of Community Living Trent Highlands have also decided to partake in the rock snake display, spreading its joy beyond Haliburton County. The project was initiated by the "Good Vibes" committee, a team of people within the organization that are evidently living up to their name.

Lumley said that the snake started with just one rock, painted as a snake's head, and a sign that reads "'Mountaineer' The Rock Snake! To see how long I can get ... add a painted rock." Thereafter, people supported at the community home added their own rocks. "Some individuals had visitors come to paint a rock to add to the display," Acorn said, creating an opportunity to partake in an inclusive activity and to offer support.

The rest of the rocks have been painted and added to the snake by people within outside the commun coming from as far as New Brunswick!

When asked how the rock snaked made her feel, Erica Roberts, an individual supported by Community Living said that the rock snake makes her happy and that it is just so nice. Other individuals, including Tori Deubel, Justine Pearsell and James Meldrum, were eager to share which rock they had painted or which of the rocks were their favourite.

Staff members at Community Living said that the goal of the rock snake pro-



Erica Roberts stands with the rock snake in front of Community Living in Haliburton.

ject was simply to spread joy. People supported at Community Living can't help but to smile when community members stop to look at their creation or add a rock to the display. And that smile is shared by passersby.

"It's about bringing the community to us," Acorn said. To others, "Mountaineer" the rock snake represents a collective commitment to support one another and to enread hannings. She added that the rock snake will continue to be an ongoing project and will remain there year-round.

Now, Community Living has a goal, and it's up to us to help them achieve it. Their aim is to extend the rock snake to the end of the entrance ramp, or maybe all the way to the Canoe FM building. So, let's paint a rock, put a smile on someone's face and a warmth in our hearts. Let's bring the community to Commu-

Magic school buses; a peek into Haliburton Bus Lines

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Staff Reporter

What's big and yellow and connects our entire community, yet still flies under the radar on a regular basis?

If you guessed school buses, you're

right.

This past week was bus driver appreciation week across the country, and with 56 vehicles in the local fleet, reaching every corner of Haliburton County, what better time to connect with our local bus

"We're mediators, referees, baby-sitters, disciplinarians, counsellors, cheerleaders, and safe spaces," said Nina Clemmens, the head trainer for the bus lines, as we sat down to chat one chilly Thursday afternoon, "and we manage to do all that from our peripherals."

The bus lines have a cozy office set up on Wallings Road, with bowls of jelly beans on the desks and freshly strewn Halloween decor. The team swapped a series of inside jokes, references, and stories as I was welcomed into the middle of their circle to listen and learn.

Each of the staff - from dispatch to recruitment to marketing to training - also double their responsibilities by driving buses; sometimes regularly, and sometimes as a fill-in.

But the common denominator to each staff working there, is that they are parents. "I got into this because I wanted to spend more time with my kids, wanted to know what they were doing," said branch manager Alicia Scheffee. "You actually came on a good day!" she laughed. "Normally, there's at least one kid in this office

The kids are the heart and soul of what they do at the bus company, and through all the challenges they stumble upon, knowing that the local kids are safe, supported, seen, and heard is consistently their number one priority.

And there's no shortage of local kids. Currently, there are approximately 1800 who take the bus consistently to schools, with many more jumping on occasionally. "Basically our entire school system is bused in," said Jessica Podmore, who works dispatch, noting that rural communities have opportunities and challenges that differ from those in urban settings. "This is very unique to our region," she

The majority of urban schools split up their routes based on age, grade, and school. This is an option based on the wide pool of drivers available in the city. In Haliburton County, the pool is a little shallower when it comes to drivers. While the company is thrilled to have consistent drivers for each route currently, they noted that there are no back-up options.

This is why they're actively trying to recruit to build their roster of local drivers. "Our demographic in drivers is shifting," said Podmore, "but of course, everyone is very well trained."

Nina Clemmens takes the lead on all bus driver training in the county. She outlined the rigorous yet attainable process of becoming a driver for the bus lines. "It takes about two weeks in total," she said, "but we redo the training every five years. Then, past the age of 65 it's every three years, then every year for drivers over the age of 80."

The training includes a series of indepth background checks, 12 lessons, both in-class and on the road, a road test, and a specific student bus driving course. The graduate would receive an active "B" licence, and the ability to drive a bus safely on public roads.

While the company is always actively looking for drivers, they noted that their largest demographic of drivers is cur-



The faces behind the Haliburton Bus Lines. The buses travel to all corners of the county to support local kids getting to schools year-round. /EMILY STONEHOUSE Staff

rently folks who are middle-aged. When asked why, they all had the same answer: childcare.

"There's no childcare available in the county," said Clemmens, "so driv-ing a school bus allows you to have the same schedule as your kids. Drive them into school, then pick them up at the end of the day, and get paid for it." She noted that many parents drive the bus in the morning and afternoon to complement their kids' schedule, and often pick up a part-time job throughout the day, between bus routes.

"We're trying to change the narrative around bus drivers," said Scheffee, "it's always the negative about drivers and what we do, or what goes wrong, but we want to change that stereotype.

Scheffee and her team are actively brainstorming ideas for how to get involved in the community, and not only recruit more drivers to their fleet, but showcase everything they are proud of in their jobs.

One of the ways they get out there is by offering the "Paint the Bus" activity at public schools, where kids are eager to mix paints and meet the drivers. Because, Scheffee noted, bus drivers are important

people in these kids' lives.
"For so many kids, the bus is their safe space. They talk to us, they meet other people," said Scheffee. Podmore echoed her sentiment, making specific reference to the opportunity for kids of all ages to take the same bus. "When my daughter was in Stuart Baker, she got to know people in JDH, and now that she's in JDH and preparing for high school, she already knows people there too," she said. "They automatically create this big brother, big sister dynamic on the buses.

The staff behind the scenes at the Haliburton Bus Company dabble in the world of driving buses as well, and they lit up when we talked about what that means to each of them. "It's great when the kids recognize us in the stores, after school," shared Steve Potalivo, who works in training and maintenance, and as an occasional driver when needed, "they get so excited to see us."

It's blazingly apparent that the reason each and every staff member at the Haliburton Bus Lines is in this career: it's truly for the kids.

And even though it's for the kids, the school year is actually their quiet time. In the summer, they drive all the routes to accommodate camps, weddings, and special events, making their schedules even more unpredictable, but still tying the community together.

They also provide a bus for seniors in Dysart to travel out of the county for appointments, receive medication, or go to the doctor. On Wednesdays, they offer

access to the bus for all interested seniors to do their shopping. For access to this resource, contact 705-457-1740.

In an effort to become more involved in the community, the bus lines are actively finding ways of giving back. Their next event is Halloween at Lakeside Church, where they are filling their bus with donated canned goods that will go to the Food Bank after the event, and on Nov. 18 at Minden Canadian Tire, they will be hosting their Toy Stuff a Bus fundraiser to collect toys, clothing, and food for the Food Bank. "We're always wondering how we can become more involved in the community," said Scheffee. "So we want to hear from people, we want to hear your ideas, and we want to give back as much

As I wound down the interview and laughed with the crew while we snapped photos outside, I realized that this group of people are the heart and soul of the community. They are the reason our kids get to learn every day, the security of knowing our most precious cargo is safe, and the pulse that keeps the momentum of our little village going, in all corners of

If you are interested in getting involved with the Haliburton Bus Lines team, contact 705-457-8882 or email info@haliburtonbuslines.com.

And the next time you see a big yellow school bus on one of the many winding roads in Haliburton County, be sure to give them a nod of appreciation. We couldn't do this without them.



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'You are home where you feel loved'

BRITNEY PAGLIUCA

Staff Reporter

"You are home where you feel loved."

I have carried this quote with me from adolescence, holding onto the idea that a home is not merely the place you were born or a house, but a feeling of belonging, acceptance and love.

I grew up in a suburb in Toronto. A misfit amongst the city dwellers, I longed for adventure and more time spent outdoors, but also a sense of togetherness that I felt was lacking in the big city. After I graduated from high school, I spent years searching for these things. I lived in Australia, British Columbia, Alberta, Thunder Bay (ON), and eventually made my way back to Toronto to complete my bachelor's degree in history at Toronto Metropolitan University.

There I met my best friend, a homesteader of Tory Hill and local to Haliburton County. The invitation to live with her and her mom on their farm in 2020 was my first introduction to what makes this county so magical. Not only its beautiful lakes and landscapes, but its welcomeness and unwavering devotion to community and to each other. Three years later, now living in Minden, I am still so grateful and proud to call Haliburton County

It's hard to find the words to express how honoured

and excited I am to be taking on the role as a news reporter for the Haliburton Echo and Minden Times. For me, it is a chance to immerse myself into the community through your stories, events, ideas and passions. As a reporter, I recognize my unique opportunity and obligation, to amplify voices that may otherwise go unheard, to encourage collective engagement and collaboration, and to share stories that make each of us proud to be part of this community.

A Haliburton local once told me that you're only a local if your family has been here for three generations. I laughed. My family hasn't even lived in Canada that long. So where is my home? Well as I decided throughout my many years of searching ... you are home where you feel loved.

I have found that here, and so much more. And I promise to try, through my work at the Haliburton Echo and Minden Times, to give back to you all of which you have shared with me. Thank you for inviting me into your home and letting me call it my home too.

While some of you may recognize me from my time spent working at Maple Avenue or the Kinark Outdoor Centre, I know that to many of you I am a new face in the community – but a friendly one at that!

Please feel free to introduce yourself or reach out to me at britneyp@haliburtonpress.com.

I can't wait to meet you all and delve into all the things that make Haliburton County such a magical place.

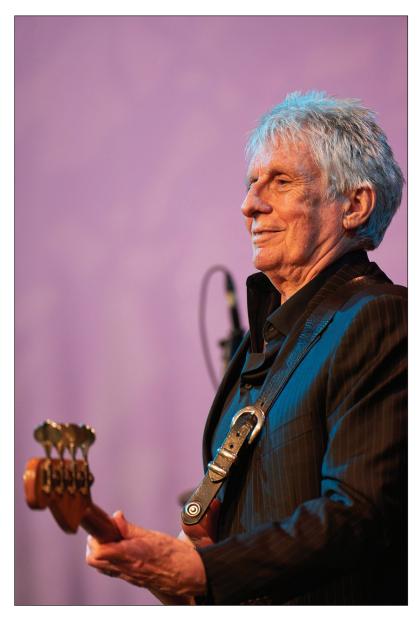




Singin' the blues

The Highlands Buckslide Blues Society and Canoe FM presented an evening of outstanding blues music by the Downchild Blues Band on their Happy Trails Tour with special guest Spencer MacKenzie at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion on Thursday, Oct. 26. /TIM YANO Special to the Echo





Sweat Social; a place for the parents

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Staff Reporter

For Chelsea Adamson, Haliburton was

always the end goal.

The owner of Sweat Social Fitness and mom of two young kids has added an energy to the community in less than a year - and was recently recognized for it at the annual Chamber Awards Gala on Oct. 20, winning new business of the year. "This gym is community based," she

said, "so to be recognized as a whole, for all that we do, that feels amazing." Adamson originally hails from Sar-

nia, Ontario, but went out to Alberta for work in her 20s. It was here that she met her "partner in business and life", Justin Abbs. "From literally the first kiss, we knew exactly what we wanted. We wanted to open a gym, back home, and have kids," Adamson said. "Every decision we made between that moment and now has led us to this point.

The couple moved back to Haliburton when Adamson was 20 weeks pregnant, and hit the ground running with their

vision for a gym in the area.

Adamson and Abbs now have two children; a son who is 19-months-old, and a daughter who is three-years-old. As a lifelong lover of fitness and wellness, Adamson was constantly seeking opportunities to continue her passion; particularly in a postpartum chapter. "Fitness is such an important part of my life, and I always wanted fitness to be a staple in my kids' lives as well," she said, "but I couldn't find anywhere I fit in here."

It wasn't until she sat down with Haliburton County Development Corporation (HCDC), when her son was a mere eight weeks old, that she realized that the idea for a gym that was inclusive for parents and children may actually be something that's missing in the community. "Sweat Social at the time was a social media page I was running while the kids napped," she said, "but it was so amazing how things worked out.'

On Nov. 17, 2022, the doors to the first brick and mortar Sweat Social opened up. Located in the heart of the Wellness Hub



Patti Tallman of HCDC presented Chelsea Adamson and Justin Abbs with the award for new business of the year at the annual Chamber Gala Awards on Oct. 20 at Sir Sam's. The couple starts Sweat Social Fitness in Haliburton less than a year ago. /Photo submitted

at 135 Industrial Park Road in Haliburton, the gym offers high end equipment, training sessions, and nutrition-based semi-

And at the core, Adamson prioritizes parents who want to participate. "I am completely passionate about parent fitness," she said. "We think it's super when kids are in the room. And really, I'm supplying the space and giving guidance along the way, but it's the people who come in that really create that inclusive environment.'

On Mondays and Wednesdays, Adamson offers "Babies and Barbells" sessions, where parents can bring their kids of all ages to the gym, and everyone works together to support, encourage, and care

for both the mothers and the babies.

"It's inspiring," she said, while she herself held her now 19-month-old son. "You get to see the kids light up, and say things like 'wow my mom is so strong!

In terms of joining a gym, Adamson knows full well that the concept can be intimidating; particularly for postpartum mothers. "But we have people of all ages and experience levels doing the same program," she said, "and it's very easy to scale to your level."

Adamson noted that the first class is free, and participants are greeted with a coach who will support them, and walk them through the equipment prior to jumping in. There is also a magic to the existing participants being there; cheering newcomers on, and encouraging them to continue coming.

In the last 30 days, Adamson has seen over 1000 logins (meaning folks who have

either booked in or logged in), for the programs, with normally 50 to 60 easily seen each day.

As Sweat Social continues to grow and Adamson watches her children grow up with fitness at their core, she can't help but reflect on how far she's come in less than a year. "It really takes a village," said Adamson, which she related to all components of her life: starting a business, committing to a fitness program, and raising kids in Haliburton County with strength, resilience, and a little extra sweat.





Crossword brought to you by

Ken Barry 705-754-5280 ken@kenbarry.com **Jacquie Barry** 705-457-0652 jacquie@kenbarry.com

"Out Standing In Our Field"



RF/MAX PROFESSI^ONALS



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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Spiritual leaders
- 7. Salt
- 13. Fortified wine
- 14. Edible mollusk
- 16. It begins with them
- 17. A way to compare
- 19. Governmentt lawyer
- 20. Back parts
- 22. 8th month (abbr.)
- 23. Very willing
- 25. __ ex machina
- 26. Satisfies
- 28. Quebec river
- 29. A doctrine
- 30. Popular pickup truck
- 31. Dekagram
- 33. Naturally occurring solid material
- 34. Company officer
- 36. Villains
- 38. Cricket frogs
- 40. German founder of psychology
- 41. Endured
- 43. A female domestic
- 44. A "place' to avoid
- 45. Cigarette (slang)
- 47. Canadian politician Josephine
- 48. French ballet/acting dynasty
- 51. Employee stock ownership plan
- 53. Belonging to the bottom
- 55. Sound
- 56. Yankees' slugger Judge
- 58. Dickens character
- 59. More wise
- 60. Flash memory card
- 61. Exposing human vice or folly to ridi-
- 64. Atomic #79
- 65. Longtime Braves pitcher Julio
- 67. Humor
- 69. Shawl
- 70. Preliminary assessment of patients

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Animal disease
- 2. Commercial
- 3. Craft supply
- 4. Storage units
- 5. Investment vehicle
- 6. Colorado Heisman winner 7. In a way, sank
- 8. Post-birth brain damage (abbr.)
- 9. Lay about
- 10. Intestinal
- 11. The opposite of yes
- 12. Caused to be loved
- 13. Messianic in Islamic eschatology
- 15. Showing since conviction
- 18. Not safe
- 21. The number above the line in a fraction
- 24. Yard invader
- 26. Pouch
- 27. Swedish krona
- 30. Start anew
- 32. While white or yellow flower
- 35. Fourteen
- 37. Graphical user interface
- 38. Up-to-date on the news
- 39. Campaigns
- 42. Touch softly
- 43. "Boardwalk Empire" actress
- 46. Violent seizure of property 47. One who supports the Pope
- 49. Anxiety
- 50. Body fluid
- 52. Phony person
- 54. Title of respect 55. Chilean city
- 57. City in central Japan
- 59. Silk garment
- 62. Draw from 63. Automobile
- 66. Man
- 68. Legal bigwig (abbr.)

Answers on page 13



Haliburton local Owen Flood has become assistant coach for the Haliburton County Huskies this year. /TIM YANO Special to the Times

Flood takes on the Huskies ice as assistant coach

VIVIAN COLLINGS

Editor

When the Haliburton County Huskies head coach Ryan Ramsay asked to have lunch with Owen Flood a few months ago, the equipment manager and trainer at the time was expecting a sandwich and some conversation about the upcoming

To the Haliburton County local's surprise, he was instead offered the position of assistant coach for the local Ontario

Junior Hockey League team. The long time player is modest about his accomplishments, but it's clear his outstanding work ethic and dedication to

the sport are what got him there. "I'd been doing all their strength conditioning stuff, I was also helping around the rink in the first year, and last year I had a similar role. I did some equipment stuff and was out on the ice with them running more of the skill development practices," Flood said. "I was surprised when Ryan offered the assistant coach position to me - I definitely didn't see it

coming. It was very exciting."

Being a pragmatic person, Flood knew he still wanted to take some time to really make sure the job would be a good fit.

"I talked to some other people in hockey that I really respect to make sure the job was suited towards me, because strength conditioning is a lot different from the other side of things," he said. "I've been around hockey for quite a while and Ryan thought I was capable of doing the job and so did the others, so that's when I decided it was up my alley to take it."

The local fitness trainer got his start with the Huskies before the team even came to town three years ago

The team came from Whitby, they were formally the Whitby Fury, so I had two clients that I trained in the summers that played for Whitby, and they told me about the Huskies," he said.

From there, he reached out to Ramsay to ask if the team needed a trainer and equipment manager, and was offered the

He still does the Huskies' fitness training, but work with the team look a little different for Flood now.

"My game days are a lot different in terms of going through lineups and helping with all the systems that we run," he

He and the team's other assistant coach, Matt Comand, also run the team's practices.

"We come up with drills, teaching the kids where they're supposed to be on the ice, and then I also make sure they're working hard at off-ice training," Flood

He stays busy the rest of the time with his new gym, Spot 97 in Minden.

"I do personal training there as well, so in the winter I spend more time doing the personal training when I'm not with the

hockey team at the rink," he said. To most, assistant coach for an OJHL team and running a new business might seem like an overwhelming feat.

To Flood, it's just about finding bal-

'Right now, I have a really good balance between the gym and the team. On the bus travelling to away games, I get some computer stuff done, so I just learn when I have time for certain things as I go," he said.

A love for the sport

Since starting out in the CanSkate program in Minden at a young age, Flood

knew he wanted to play the game.

"I then moved on to play for Highland Storm, played a little AAA in Orillia, and then when I went to post-secondary school I played a bit of junior hockey, and then came back home," he said.

The reason why he loves the cool air of the arena and the sound of sticks and blades on ice has evolved over the years.

"Hockey before was all about being with friends, and now hockey for me is about helping kids achieve their goals which is really rewarding. In the summer I get to help them in the gym get bigger and stronger and hopefully make the hockey team they want to make and be better on the ice, and then with the team I get to make sure everyone's working within a system and seeing them be successful is super rewarding," he said. "That's what I enjoy most and what makes it fun for me.'

Huskies face the Menace

The Huskies took on the Milton Menace at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena in Minden on Tuesday, Oct. 24. After a nail-biting game and fierce competition from the Huskies, the Menace came out on top with a final score of 5-2. /TIM YANO Special to the *Echo*





Pink in the Rink

The boys switched out their blue and white jerseys for pink on Saturday, Oct. 28 for the annual Pink in the Rink game to raise funds and awareness for those battling breast cancer. The Huskies took on the Cobourg Cougars and lost 1-4 at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena in Minden. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff





Lunch is On Us kicks off at SIRCH Bistro

There will be food, companionship and laughter every Wednesday at the SIRCH Bistro starting Nov. 1, as Lunch Is On Us returns. On some of the Wednesdays, there will also be live music.

An annual program offered by SIRCH Community Services, Lunch Is On Us provides a hot and nutritious meal once a week at the popular eatery located at 49 Maple Ave., next door to Emmerson Lumber during the fall and winter months.

Running from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. (or while supplies last), the hot lunch is all about offering nutrition, connection and hospitality during the bleak fall and winter months. And it's an opportunity for SIRCH to say thank you to the community for their support throughout the

"There are so many up-sides to Lunch Is On Us," said SIRCH executive director Gena Robertson. "It's a little break from all the problems of the world. A place to connect with friends – ones you know or ones you haven't met yet. A place to eat a lunch that is hot, healthy and delicious. And in these times where everything seems to cost more, it's free of charge."

The LIOU menu will consist of a homemade soup, a hot feature item and coffee or tea. It will be free for dine in guests only. Those wishing to get take-out can purchase their meal at regular price, and of course the bakery will also have their delicious treats for sale.

The goal is to create a warm and inviting space for anyone and everyone to feel welcome. The winter months can be a very isolating time for many in Haliburton County, particularly seniors. Having a weekly event to go to, like Lunch is on Us, can give people something



Starting Nov. 1, Lunch Is On Us will return to the SIRCH Bistro, located at 49 Maple Ave. From 11:30 to 2 p.m. quests can enjoy a soup, hot lunch and coffee or tea at no charge! There will be food, fun and sometimes even live music every Wednesday until March 27th, 2024. /Photo submitted

to look forward to and improve their overall mental well-

If you want to pay it forward, donations will be accepted and appreciated, but they are not required.

Lunch Is On Us will run every Wednesday until March 27, 2024. Don't get caught waiting around, lunch is only served until 2 p.m. or while food last. Bring your friends, your neighbours or just yourself.

SIRCH Community Services is a not-for-profit organ-

ization with the goal of strengthening resilience in our community. It has been operating in Haliburton County

For more info visit sirch.on.ca or call 705-457-1742. You can find out more SIRCH news and events by following them on Facebook and Instagram.

Submitted by SIRCH Community Services

Halloween scene

Branch 129 of the Haliburton Legion hosted their annual Halloween Bingo this past week, with folks dressing up to participate. "Covid hit Haliburton Branch 129 bingo pretty hard," said Adrienne Clark, the bingo administrator at the Haliburton Legion. "Things are finally picking back up as people become more comfortable going back out into public settings, and new things are on their way with Bingo." Clark noted that it was a fun evening, with a costume contest, games, and snack bags. The Haliburton Legion thanks their volunteers for making it a success. /Submitted





CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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Square bales of hay for sale. You pick up \$4.00 per bale. Delivery possible. Please call 705-488-2887.

300 FOR RENT

Large one-bedroom apartment available for rent in December 2023. Single, mature, non-smoking tenants preferred. Fully furnished with recent renovations. Includes water access and private entrance. 10 minute drive from Haliburton. \$1400 per month. Includes hydro heat and parking. Please call **705-457-0861**

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Haliburton Echo

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In Loving Memory of

Gonnsen, Karl Gerhard

Predeceased by his father Dr. August Gonnsen (2007) and mother, Marianne Matthiesen-Gonnsen (2011). Karl went home to his Lord and Saviour on October 22, 2023 in his 80th year. He will be deeply missed by his wife Catharine of 27 years, sister and husband Heidi and Dieter Rohde, nephew Martin Rohde (Alice Newton), niece Kristina Rohde (Dylan Flamond), great nieces Violet and Audrey, sister in law Rhonda (Daniel) Donn, brother in law Dwight Bingle, sister in law Dorothy Bingle (Paul deceased), Adam Bingle, Amanda Street, Kelly

and Bob Chafe, Diane Taylor. Catharine's equivilent of children Andrew and Rosalie Lang (Aiden, Maliah, Jaxon), Dr. Jacob and Victoria Pikor (Olivia Lou, Reese). Karl leaves a son, Kevin Gonnsen (Kelly) and grandsons Griffin and Gavin Gonnsen (mother Elaine Bryson-Gonnsen). He will be mourned by beloved family in Germany and the Netherlands, Uncle and Aunt Gunter and Ella Matthiesen, cousins Kali and Kerstin Matthiesen, Utta Peterson, Annagret Schmidt-Tysen, and Jan and Marika Vanderhout.

Karl loved life and lived it to the fullest. Born September 3, 1944 in war torn Schleswig-Holstein (formerly Freisland), Germany near the Danish boarder and the North Sea, Karl appreciated farming and blacksmithing. Burlington Old Timer Hockey and golf were passions. After graduating from McMaster as an engineer in 1967, Karl went to work for the City of Burlington where he stayed until 1991. He left to establish Metropolitan Planning and Engineering, later Metropolitan Consulting Inc. This was a Burlington based business that over her 31 years in Burlington at one point had 29 employees and did consulting work in British Columbia, New York, Michigan, and Colorado, in addition to Ontario. Karl became a Registered Professional Planner in 2002 and together with Catharine acquired several heritage buildings and properties which they repurposed for professional office space and subdivision to save and preserve into the future. Karl was a member of the Ontario Waste Water Association and the Engineers and Geoscientists of British Columbia. He loved music and played clarinet in the New Horizon Band for a time. As a European immigrant to Canada at the age of seven, he had a deep appreciation of cultural heritage, the significance of trees to a community and through his business was a supporter of Habitat for Humanity. Past President of The Drag and Spruce Lake Property Owner's Association, Past Chair of the Town of Grimsby Green Advisory Committee, Karl enjoyed involvement with environmentally aware organizations. He was also a member of the Hamilton Branch United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada to support his wife. Heartfelt thanks to the staff of Juravinski Hospital ICU and Ward F5 for care above and beyond. In lieu of flowers, donations to West Lincoln Memorial Hospital Foundation in Karl's memory would be appreciated. Visitation at STONEHOUSE-WHITCOMB FUNERAL HOME, 11 Mountain Street, GRIMSBY (905-945-2755) was held on Monday, October 30, 2023, from 6-9 pm. The service of remembrance will be held at the Funeral Home on Tuesday, October 31, at 10:30 a.m.

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Tuesday, October 31, 2000 Vol. 117 No. 29

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Mosey on up

Hollie and Amy Traviss certainly got into the spirit of the OK Corrall monte carlo night at the Lloyd Watson Centre in Wilberforce recently. They, and other young people in the community, will also be the beneficiaries of the annual fundraising event since proceeds go to new playground equipment.

Daughter hopes to continue Bill Scott's legacy

ERIK MARTENSSON

Staff Reporter

A familiar name is gracing some of the many election campaign signs now dotting the rocky landscape of the Highlands.

Laurie Scott, daughter of long-serving Tory MP Bill Scott, is the new federal Progressive Conservative candidate for Haliburton-Victoria-Brock.

"I'm genuinely concerned about the future of this riding and I want some effective representation and I'm willing to do the job," says the 37-year-old

health care professional.

Raised and still residing in Kinmount, Scott accepted her party's nomination in front of 250 supporters at a meeting held in Lindsay last

As many will remember, Laurie's late father Bill Scott served as the region's MP for over 25 years and won eight straight elections to the House of Commons. As he was well known for taking care of constituents' needs, the younger Scott agrees that her father's reputation will bring more attention to her campaign and may help open a few

"Certainly he was regarded highly throughout the riding and worked hard to get that recognition.

He certainly taught me a lot of values and I was taught to stand up for what I believe in. So I think that will shed some positive light on my cam-

paign."
Having worked on several federal and provincial Tory campaigns over the years, Scott says she

knows both the riding and the electorate. "I'm certainly people oriented and I have a lot of

See Scott page 4

HHHS gets extra \$1-million a year to stabilize budgets for healthcare facilities

MARTHA PERKINS

Friday's \$1-million infusion into Haliburton Highlands Health Services' annual operating budget "is exceedingly good news," says the corporation's executive director.

"It creates for us for the first time a stable funding base," Foster Loucks said after the Ministry of Health announced the HHHS will get an additional \$1.2-million, \$200,000 of which

is one-time funding.

While the money will pay for services and costs the HHHS had already budgeted for, at least it means the corporation won't have to have a deficit to worry about.

"This is not money that we have extra," Loucks cautions. "this is money that to a large extent has already been approved for spending."

In its operating also extends.

In its operating plan submitted to the Ministry last spring, the HHHS included roughly \$1.2-million more than its base and funding allowed for. Some of staff.

· contributing 10% towards an agreement to pay emergency

hour for 24-hour-a-day service at both Minden and Haliburton seven days a week. This payment agreement cost the board \$200,000

• \$300,000 on nurses' salaries in order to meet the Ministry requirement that every patient who enters the emergency department must be seen within 15 minutes of arrival to assess their needs. This required extra nursing staff from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. at both sites

• increments in collective agreements

· support staff to take over the services which used to be provided by St. Joseph's Hospital. St. Joseph's, which used to own both sites, provided the services for free after the transfer of ownership, but board members felt the HHHS was given low priority and wanted to be able to provide these services locally. Money will be used to pay salaries of part-time human resources, education and information technology

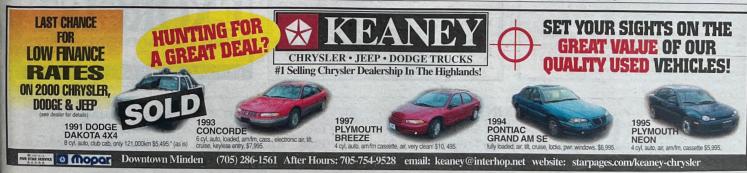
"It's money that translates

See Funding page 6



Fire destroys house

Last Monday night, a house on Highway 118 south of West Guilford was totally destroyed by fire. The Fire Marshall's Office is investigating the blaze. The house had been unoccupied for three weeks. For story, please see







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